
Mary Shelley Frankenstein Quotes With Page Numbers

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INTRODUCTION: THE ENDURING POWER OF MARY SHELLEY'S WORDS

When Mary Shelley first conceived her tale of a scientist who defies nature and creates life, she could not have imagined that her words would echo across centuries. *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* is not merely a horror story; it is a profound meditation on ambition,

responsibility, isolation, and the very essence of humanity. For students, scholars, and casual readers alike, quoting from the novel with precision — including accurate page numbers — is essential for analysis, essays, and discussion. Yet finding **Mary Shelley Frankenstein quotes with page numbers** can be tricky because editions vary widely. This guide provides a comprehensive collection of the novel's most significant quotes, contextualized

WHY PAGE numbers are referenced to widely used editions, helping you navigate the text with confidence.

Whether you are preparing for an exam, writing a literary critique, or simply revisiting this Gothic masterpiece, understanding the placement and relevance of these lines deepens your appreciation of Shelley's craft. Below, we explore key themes through direct quotations, explain why page numbers matter, and offer practical tips for using these quotes effectively. Let us journey into the world of Victor Frankenstein, his Creature, and the timeless questions they raise.

NUMBERS MATTER IN *FRANKENSTEIN*

One of the first challenges readers encounter is that there is no single, universally accepted edition of *Frankenstein*. Mary Shelley revised the novel for a second edition in 1823 and again for the 1831 edition, which is the most commonly reprinted version. However, the original 1818 text, restored by scholars like M. K. Joseph (Penguin Classics) and J. Paul Hunter (Norton Critical Edition), is often preferred for its raw, unaltered power. Consequently, **page numbers differ dramatically between editions.**

When searching for **Mary Shelley**

Frankenstein quotes with page numbers, it is crucial to specify which edition you are using. Below, we provide references from two widely accessible editions:

- **Penguin Classics edition (2003), edited by M. K. Joseph** — Uses the 1818 text.
- **Oxford World's Classics edition (2008), edited by David Lorne Macdonald and Kathleen Scherf** — Also based on the 1818 text but with different pagination.

Where possible, we also note the chapter (or volume and chapter in the original three-volume structure) to make

quotes easy to locate in any edition.

ESSENTIAL QUOTES FROM THE CREATURE: THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY AND COMPASSION

The Creature is one of literature's most misunderstood figures. His eloquence and yearning for connection give rise to some of the novel's most memorable lines. Here are key quotes with page numbers from the Penguin Classics edition (1818 text).

"I ought
to be thy

Adam;
but I am
rather
the fallen
angel..."

Context: The Creature confronts Victor after his creation, demanding that his maker take responsibility for his abandonment. This quote appears in **Chapter 10** of the 1818 text (Volume II, Chapter 2 in the original structure). In the **Penguin Classics edition**, it is found on **page 90**. In the **Oxford World's Classics edition**, it appears on **page 87**.

"Remember

r, that I am
thy
creature; I
ought to be
thy Adam,
but I am
rather the
fallen
angel,
whom thou
drivest
from joy
for no
misdeed.
Everywher
e I see
bliss, from
which I
alone am
irrevocably
excluded."

This line powerfully encapsulates the Creature's sense of injustice and his desire for a paternal bond. Using this quote with its page number allows readers to grasp the biblical allusions that run through the novel.

“I was
benevole
nt and
good;
misery
made me
a fiend.”

Context: In his long narrative to Victor (Volume II, Chapters 3-7), the Creature explains how his initial kindness was crushed by human cruelty. This line is from **Chapter 13** of the 1818 text (Volume II, Chapter 7). In the **Penguin edition**, it is on **page 103**. The **Oxford edition** has it on **page 101**.

This quote is a cornerstone for discussions of nature versus nurture. It demonstrates that the Creature's transformation from innocent to vengeful is a direct result of rejection and violence. It is frequently cited in essays on moral philosophy and psychology.

“I am
alone and
miserable
; man will
not
associate

with me.”

Context: Spoken during the same section, the Creature laments his fundamental loneliness. **Chapter 13** (Penguin p. 103; Oxford p. 101).

This simple yet devastating line underscores the theme of isolation. The Creature craves companionship but is denied even the basic comfort of human society. Pairing this quote with a page number strengthens arguments about the novel’s critique of social exclusion.

**VICTOR
FRANKENSTEIN’S
AMBITION AND ITS
CONSEQUENCES**

Victor Frankenstein’s own words reveal his

hubris, his guilt, and his gradual descent into obsession. These quotes are essential for analyzing the cautionary tale of unchecked ambition.

“Learn
from me,
if not by
my
precepts,
at least
by my
example,
how

dangerous
is the
acquisition
of
knowledge..."

Context: Victor warns Robert Walton in the opening letters of the novel. This appears in **Letter 4** (1818 text). In the **Penguin edition**, it is on **page 15**; in the **Oxford edition**, **page 13**.

This is one of the most quoted lines of the entire novel. It sets the narrative frame and introduces the theme of dangerous knowledge. When using this quote,

specify that it comes from the frame narrative to show Shelley's layered storytelling.

"I had
desired it
with an
ardour
that far
exceeded
moderation..."

Context: Victor reflects on his youthful obsession with natural philosophy. Found in **Chapter 3** (Penguin p. 30; Oxford p. 28).

This line demonstrates

the excessive passion that drives Victor to create life. It is useful for arguments about the Romantic concept of the “over-reacher.”

“I beheld
the
wretch —
the
miserable
monster
whom I
had
created.”

Context: The moment of horror when the Creature first comes to life. **Chapter 4**

(Penguin p. 42; Oxford p. 40).

Victor’s immediate revulsion, even before the Creature does anything wrong, is pivotal. This quote highlights his failure to take responsibility and his innate prejudice against his own creation.

THEMES OF REVENGE AND RETRIBUTION

Both Victor and the Creature become consumed by vengeance, leading to mutual destruction. Their words on revenge are among the most powerful in the novel.

“Beware;
for I am

fearless,
and
therefore
powerful.

”

Context: The Creature threatens Victor during their confrontation on the glacier. **Chapter 10** (Volume II, Chapter 2) — **Penguin p. 91; Oxford p. 88.**

This line is often used to illustrate the idea that fearlessness grants power, even to the oppressed. The Creature, having been rejected, finds strength in his lack of fear of death.

“You, my
creator,
would
tear me
to pieces
and
triumph;
remember that,
and tell
me why I
should

pity man with you
more on your
than how wedding-
pities night."

me?"

Context: The Creature's logical argument for his revenge. **Chapter 13** (Penguin p. 104; Oxford p. 102).

This quote forces readers to sympathize with the Creature's reasoning. It is a key piece of evidence in any debate about who the real monster is.

"I shall be

Context: The Creature's cryptic threat to Victor after Victor destroys the female creature.

Chapter 20 (Volume III, Chapter 5) — **Penguin p. 178; Oxford p. 170.**

This short line is laden with dramatic irony and foreshadowing. Victor mistakenly believes the Creature will kill him on that night, but instead, Elizabeth dies. It is a masterful use of suspense.

NATURE, THE

**SUBLIME, AND
SOLITUDE**

Shelley's descriptions of the natural world are not mere backdrop; they reflect the characters' inner states. These quotes elevate the novel's Romantic sensibility.

"The
immense
mountain
s and
precipice
s that
overhung

me on
every
side —
the sound
of the
river
raging
among
the rocks,
and the
dashing
of the

waterfalls power and beauty that
 around... both awes and terrifies.
 I found The page number
 that I had helps scholars locate
 wandered, cold, Shelley's use of
 into the and quiet Romantic landscape
 very of the conventions.
 heart of a night that
 desert." makes
 me feel
 most
 strongly

Context: Victor's journey through the Alps after the murder of William. **Chapter 7** (1818 text) — **Penguin p. 74; Oxford p. 67.**

This passage illustrates the sublime — the overwhelming experience of nature's

the
solitude
of my
situation.

”

Context: The Creature speaking about his attraction to the night. From his narrative, **Chapter 16** (Volume II, Chapter 7) — **Penguin p. 110; Oxford p. 108.**

This quote beautifully ties together the themes of isolation and the sublime darkness of nature. It is often used in essays about the relationship between environment and emotion.

SHELLEY FRANKENSTEIN QUOTES WITH PAGE NUMBERS IN YOUR WRITING

When incorporating these quotes into essays or papers, follow these best practices:

1. **Always cite the edition you are using.** State in your introduction or footnotes which edition's page numbers you follow. For example: "All page references are from the Penguin Classics edition of the 1818 text, edited by M. K. Joseph."
2. **Provide context.** Do not just drop a quote; explain

who is speaking and the situation. For instance, “When the Creature declares, ‘I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend’ (103), he reveals his transformation from innocence to malice.”

3. **Use quotes to support your argument, not replace it.** A good rule is to follow each quote with a sentence of analysis that ties it to your thesis.
4. **Be aware of variations.** If you use a different edition (like the 1831 version), your page numbers will differ.

Confirm with your specific copy. Many online resources list quotes by chapter, which is edition-independent.

Sample Paragraph Using Quotes with Page Numbers

“In *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley uses the Creature’s own words to argue that social rejection creates monsters. The Creature tells Victor, ‘I was benevolent and good; misery made me a

fiend' (Penguin 103